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APPLICATION N	10.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,684 10/31/2003		10/31/2003	Dennis Albert Doidge	RAL919970043US3	3563
25299	7590	04/26/2005	EXAMINER		
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DEPT 9C			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
RESEAR	.CH TRL	ANGLE PARK, NO	2665		
				DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)					
Office Action Summans	10/698,684	DOIDGE ET AL.					
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
TI MAU NO DATE COL	Duc C Ho	2665					
The MAILING DATE of this communication ap Period for Reply	pears on the cover sheet wi	tn the correspondence address					
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPI THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1. after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a report of the period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period for reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by stature Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	136(a). In no event, however, may a reply within the statutory minimum of third will apply and will expire SIX (6) MON te, cause the application to become AE	eply be timely filed y (30) days will be considered timely. THS from the mailing date of this communication. ANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).					
Status							
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 (October 2003.						
	is action is non-final.						
	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.						
Disposition of Claims							
4) ⊠ Claim(s) 23 and 34-36 is/are pending in the a 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdra 5) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ⊠ Claim(s) 23,34 and 36 is/are rejected. 7) ⊠ Claim(s) 35 is/are objected to. 8) □ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/	awn from consideration.						
Application Papers		,					
9) The specification is objected to by the Examin 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ac Applicant may not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the E	cepted or b) cobjected to e drawing(s) be held in abeyar ction is required if the drawing	ce. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119							
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreig a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority document 2. Certified copies of the priority document 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority document application from the International Bureat* * See the attached detailed Office action for a list	nts have been received. Its have been received in Apprix documents have been au (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	oplication No received in this National Stage					
Attachment(s)							
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		ummary (PTO-413)					
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 Paper No(s)/Mail Date)/Mail Date formal Patent Application (PTO-152) 					

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
- 3. Claim 23, 34, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al. (US 6,185,214), hereinafter referred to as Schwartz.

Regarding claim 23, in Schwartz the (Receive Header Processor) RHP 46-fig. 2 is responsible for identifying data units such as frames to be bridged or routed, that whether the data frames belong to a first type, the bridged frame-fig. 9A or a second type, the routed frame-fig. 9B. The frame information is forwarded and stored in the indices of the cache 28-fig. 2 via the (Address Cache ASIC) ACA 26, see col. 3-line 10 to col. 4-line 41, and col. 5-line 56 to col. 6-line 5.

Schwartz, however, does not disclose expressly the first types of frames are stored in the first queue and second type frames are stored in the second queue.

One skill in the art would recognize a typical way for handling two types of frames after the sorting step-that is queuing the frames separately for processing and control, an alternative way from storing the different frames in the indices of the cache taught by Schwartz.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time invention was made, as a design choice to employ a first queue and a second queue for first type of frame and for the second type of frame respectively such that each type of frame can be processed separately before forwarding to intermediate stages or destinations.

Regarding claim 34, Schwartz discloses a bridged frame and a routed frame, which obviously require a layer two conversion and a layer three conversion, respectively, if any of these two different frames is to be converted to a different protocol for further processing.

Regarding claim 35, the RFP 46-fig. 2 is a special purpose hardware for identifying and separating the bridged frame or the routed frame, see col. 4, lines 30-45.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 35 is objected to as being independent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Conclusion

- 5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bustini et al. (US 5,313,454); Gruenwald (US 6,542,896) are cited to show a method and apparatus for hardware forwarding of LAN frames over ATM networks, which is considered pertinent to the claimed invention.
- 6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu, can be reached on (571) 272-3155.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Luchto

Patent Examiner

Duc Ho

04-18-05